Friends Bulletin

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETINGS OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Welcome to Pacific Yearly Meeting

"Being orderly come together . . . proceed in the wisdom of God" Edward Burrough, 1662

In our home there is already the expectancy of yearly meeting, the chance comment, "I can hardly wait!", the exchange of recollections of past meetings. I hope it is that way in yours, for PYM is not just a "Business Meeting" to "be attended from duty or neglected with a sense of guilt" but anticipated as "an opportunity for all present to share with and support one another in seeking to know and follow Divine guidance and strengthen the bonds of fellowship which unite them" as our *Faith and Practice* sensitively describes it.

Pacific Yearly Meeting is a remarkable community, marked by its joy in fellowship and its annual discovery and rediscovery of warm and loving relationships. It is a special and precious quality we have. This year as we come together again we shall be joined by John A. Sullivan of the AFSC, Bob and Margaret Blood, Elizabeth and Samuel Kirk of Wider Quaker Fellowship and Peggy Paull representing the Friends World Committee. Our own sharing within our family becomes enhanced and grows in this chance for interchange with visiting Friends.

But Pacific Yearly Meeting is also a time of hard work, a chance to know what membership in a community involves. There are decisions to be made and making them is often difficult. The variety of viewpoints and attitudes which each brings to the meeting makes unity more difficult, particularly in so large a group. Yet, if we believe that to each is given a measure of the Light and if we are open to it, then we know that if trouble arises it is not the method, but our human imperfection and lack of preparation. Our business sessions are opportunities to "bear and forbear, to practice to one another that love which suffereth long and is kind."

Welcome, then, to Yearly Meeting. Come with hearts and minds prepared . . . surely we shall be refreshed and recreated!

PEGGEMAE H. LACEY
Clerk

On Worship-Fellowship

PLACE: Yearly Meeting, Worship-Fellowship room.
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
CAST OF CHARACTERS: Twelve to fifteen Yearly Meeting attenders.

Leader arrives early, arranges the chairs, sits down, settles into quiet.

Leader musing: What is the best way to help us all to have a valuable time together? To have a "meaningful experience"? (Such a beat-up phrase! What kind of meaning? The meaning of the Yearly Meeting? Of life? Of God?) They will be here soon. I must be ready.

Two Friends arrive, sit down, and join in the silence. Soon a few more come in. They sit in the circle, and look around tentatively, wondering

(Continued on page 80.)

Worship-Fellowship Groups

This year we hope to free the leader, if possible, from leading as such. What we have been doing for the most part is experiencing silence for approximately half the Worship-Fellowship time, and then the leader suggests a topic which is developed. This year we want to change the format. The leader will convene the group in worship. We trust that out of the silence will come a deepening and quickening of the spirit. Vocal ministry or sharing, possibly on a personal level, may come out of the stillness in the small group. A person may feel moved to speak more than one time. Some will share—some will not.

The responsibility for ministry in the Society of Friends rests on each one of us. Let us give ourselves the chance to trust the silence and corporate worship, and speak when we no longer can keep silent. Out of this sharing may well come a time during the meeting when worship is at an

(Continued on page 80.)

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Who Are You?

John 17:21

Who are you
tripping down my life –
you running, you slipping
you noisily crowding
you lingering through my life. . . .

who are you, pouring past –
you male, you female
you dark, and you fair
you with the butterflies in your hair. . . .
you who are straight
and you who are not
you who promised but then forgot. . . .
you young, you old
you bundled, you bare
you uncut, you smooth-cheeked
and respectably square. . . .
can you be mortals coming and going
lone separations ebbing and flowing?

Are you not the dawn of one kingdom appearing –
one plan, one purpose, one love
individually revealing. . . .
chalices of laughter, bearers of light
extending, forwards and backwards,
beyond mortal sight. . . ?
you hold a promise, you sail the sea
of Love's all-inclusive unfolding to me.

William Robert Suddaby

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Memorial

BRETT, JULIA. In the early morning hours of May 7, 1974, the loving and beloved spirit of Julia Brett, sister of Olivia Davis, slipped from her fragile body, leaving behind in the hearts of family and friends many warm and beautiful memories of her long life of almost eighty-seven years. She died in the home of her daughter, Mary Daniels, in Philadelphia. Julia was a cherished member of San Diego Monthly Meeting, where a Memorial Meeting was held on May 12. In addition to her daughter, Julia is survived by two sons and six grandchildren.

Report of PYM Peace Committee

The PYM Peace Committee met Saturday afternoon (June 8) at the L.A. Friends Meetinghouse. After reports were given of Peace Committee activities in the two Quarterly Meetings, plans were made for the PYM meetings in August. Minutes will be offered on amnesty and the war in Vietnam. Contacts will be made with both Young Friends and Junior Friends, suggesting joint meetings to explore the peace interests and concerns in these groups.

A report was given of progress in plans for the worship in Peace Studies for high school teachers to be held August 2-4 at Ben Lomond. We hope for a wide representation from Friend/teachers.

We discussed relations between AFSC and the Society of Friends and ways in which cooperation can be strengthened.

The Korean Concerns Committee of L.A. Monthly Meeting presented the critical conditions existing in South Korea, with the rapid erosion of basic human rights. The possibility of a jointly-sponsored interest group (Peace, Social Order and Friend in the Orient) at PYM is being studied.

EARLE REYNOLDS.
Clerk PYM Peace Committee

Notes on the 1974 PYM Children's Program

Friends are desperately needed as volunteers to help in the setting up and carrying out of the Children's Program at this Yearly Meeting. Marian Sanders, Coordinator of the program, will be unable to be at Yearly Meeting this year. She and Ed will be moving to Pendle Hill, where Ed has accepted the position of Executive Director.

Unfortunately, many of those who had earlier been lined up to work with the program have had to change their plans. Especially needed at present are Friends to coordinate the pre-school program, Friends to share crafts with children in the afternoons, someone to lead informal group singing nightly following the evening meal and leaders for the morning children's program (from 8:30 to 9:15).

Friends are asked to contact Lee Steelman, Clerk of the PYM Education Committee, as soon as possible, if they would be willing to take on any responsibilities at all, however small, for any of the above. Her address is 144 Ave. de la Paz, San Clemente, CA 92672. Phone: (714) 492-6808.

Memorials

ALEXANDER, MARY V. Mary V. Alexander died in Claremont, California on July 12, 1974. Born in Osaka, Japan on June 22, 1887, Mary devoted her life to serving others. Her spirit pervades Claremont Meeting even though failing health greatly limited her physical presence during her last years. Though weak of body most of her life, she nonetheless chose to serve her fellowmen. Keen of mind, she was ever alert to the tune of mankind's move toward universal brotherhood.

The twinkle in her eye called upon the best in each of us—and her soft-spoken wisdom helped us find the best in each other. Her love of books was exceeded only by her love for people and she spent her life discovering the best of each. Claremont Meeting can only be stronger of spirit for having shared her love.

BUTLER, WILLIAM M. Bill Butler of Whitleaf Meeting and more recently of Orange County Meeting died on April 20, 1974. He was a native of Kansas. Although he had not been in the best of health since his retirement from the postal service, he had always managed to enrich us with his presence at Meetings for Worship and at other functions. His quiet humor and humbleness, his devotion to the children of the Meeting, and his helping will be long remembered. He will also be missed by the children of Wintersburg School in Huntington Beach where he gave so much support to slow learners.

Bill is survived by his wife Harriet, son Alan, daughter Meredyth, and ten grandchildren. A beloved daughter, Lyvonne, had suddenly died last year. Orange County Friends gathered with his family and friends at Westminster Memorial Chapel on April 24. A brief service was conducted by Jack Turk, followed by a flute solo by Lee Steelman, providing a transition to a Memorial Meeting after the manner of Friends.

Interest Group

An interest group on "Quaker Understanding of Christ and Authority" is being arranged for at Yearly Meeting. Friends interested are asked to procure a copy of the study booklet by that name, just published by the Friends World Committee, American Section, for the "Faith and Life" dialogue which is going on among the various branches of American Quakerism. The booklet is available at $1.00 at the AFSC Bookstore, Pasadena, or from FWCC offices.

FERNER NUHN

ON WORSHIP-FELLOWSHIP *(Continued)*

whether everyone is there. A few moments pass.

Leader: There are many ways we could begin this Worship-Fellowship group.

One member, quickly: Let's go around the circle and tell our names and our Meetings.

Another: Don't we always do it that way? And also tell something about ourselves?

Leader: Those are certainly possibilities, but there are other ways we might try.

Several people speak in turn: "Well, last year, we all gave suggestions as to what topic we'd like to talk about."

"It sounds just like a discussion group to me. Is that all a Worship-Fellowship group is?"

"I was in a group last year where personal problems were shared, sort of like an encounter group?"

"But you mentioned another way?"

They pause and look questioningly at the leader.

Leader: It has seemed to many in the Yearly Meeting that it is time we returned to the original meaning and intent of Worship-Fellowship Groups. A true Worship-Fellowship Group is not a discussion group, and it is not an encounter group, as those terms are ordinarily used. In thinking about why we come together here, we consider that the purpose is to be open to the Spirit, and to try to know one another in that which is eternal, and to strengthen our spiritual bonds. You may ask, as we sit here sharing the silence, is this then a Meeting for Worship?

There are both similarities and differences between a Worship-Fellowship group and a Meeting for Worship. The similarity is that we take time to consider deeply what has been said; we do not let our contributions follow quickly one upon the other, but leave space between them. The difference is that here in Worship-Fellowship, we talk as one person to others, rather than, as in Meeting for Worship, being deep in prayer, and not speaking until we feel a moving of the Spirit to give a special message to the gathered Meeting. Also, here, each person is free to give voice to ideas more than once during the Meeting. Further, we may find a given subject which we feel led to pursue. But we try to do so at a deep level, and not let ourselves ravel out into inconsequentialities. If we are faithful in this, we may find a natural continuity from one day to the next, so that at the end of the week we feel as if it had been a single long time of sharing our real selves with each other, and that we have been enriched beyond our expectations. This experience can hold a singularity of joy which may be unmatched by anything else in the Yearly Meeting.

Others: We like this idea. Let's try it. And perhaps we could leave the saying of names until the end of the hour.

All settle into silence.

GRETCHEN RUDNICK
La Jolla

WORSHIP-FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

(Continued)

end and Friends desire to discuss as a group something that has arisen from the silence.

The leader will no longer have the responsibility to think up a topic or encourage the "shy" ones to speak. The leader will have to be sensitive to the propitious time to end the silence in favor of discussion if that feels right.

BILLIE HAMILTON, *Clerk*
Subcommittee on Groups for Worship-Fellowship

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